

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing form-based records comprising:
generating a unique identifier;
printing a form including the unique identifier;
scanning the form to capture information including the unique identifier;
storing the information as a record in a database; and
indexing the record by the unique identifier.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the operation of synchronizing the database with a remote database.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the operation of synchronizing the database with a remote database comprises copying the information from the database to the remote database.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the operation of synchronizing the database with a remote database comprises copying the information from the remote database to the database.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the operation of selecting a form from the remote database.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the operation of presenting the remote database as a local output device.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the local output device is a local, non-network printer.

8. An apparatus for managing form-based records, comprising:
 - an input device;
 - a web browser operatively connected to the input device;
 - a database searchable by the web browser and storing at least one form-based record;
 - a display device operatively connected to the web browser and database, the display device operative to display the at least one form-based record;
 - a printer operatively connected to the web browser and input device;
 - a scanner operatively connected to the database; and
 - a remote storage location driver operative to display a remote storage location as a local output device, the remote storage location driver operatively connected to the web browser and database.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
 - an input device operatively connected to the database; and
 - an input recognition module operatively connected to the input device, the input recognition module operative to identify a file on a storage medium within the input device and copy the file to the database.
10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
 - a remote storage location operatively connected to the remote storage location driver; and
 - a remote database resident on the remote storage location, the remote database accepting files from the database.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the remote database accepts files from the database continuously.
12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the remote database accepts files from the database at predetermined times.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the database accepts files from the remote database.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a unique document identifier generation module operatively connected to the database, the unique document identifier generation module operative to generate a unique document identifier corresponding to the at least one form-based record.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a unique apparatus identifier; and wherein
the unique document identifier is at least partially based on the unique apparatus identifier; and
the at least one form-based record is indexed in the database by the unique document identifier.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the unique document identifier is a DataGlyph.